

**SITUATION REPORT NO. 04**  
**INCIDENT NO. 97-001**  
**DATE: April 30, 1997      TIME: 12:00 p.m.**

TO: Governor Edward T. Schafer  
State Capitol  
Bismarck, ND 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Flood - Devils Lake.
2. DEATH AND INJURIES: No change from 1996 reports.
3. DAMAGE: The National Weather Service has updated its forecast for Devils Lake to crest in July at 1,443.5 feet to 1,444 feet, 3 ½ feet over original predictions. The update is based on U.S. Geological Survey reports that coulees that flow into the Devils Lake Basin are at record levels. As example, the Mauvais Coulee averages 51 cubic feet per second (cfs) but was at 2,560 cfs on April 24. This outlook is based on the assumption that normal precipitation and evaporation rates take place through July.

As Devils Lake continues to increase in depth from record inflows, Benson County Board of Commissioners have signed a resolution urging residents to voluntarily evacuate if they live within the 1,444 foot elevation or within a road system that could be impacted by flooding. Updated forecasts call for the lake to rise to 1,443.5 to 1,444 feet. The revised forecast would impact 70 Benson County families. In Devils Lake, Ramsey County Rural Utility System reports that service to 24 customers was lost when two lift stations were inundated. On April 28, two homes in Stromme Addition were inundated after lake ice was pushed up against the homes. The level of Devils Lake was 1,439.52 feet on April 30.

The level of Devils Lake was 1439.52 feet MSL on April 30, 1997.

4. RESOURCES COMMITTED:  
LOCAL: No change from previous reports.  
STATE: No change from previous reports.  
FEDERAL: No change from previous reports.
5. VOLUNTEER ACTIONS: No change from previous reports.
6. MAJOR ACTIONS: A State Flood Coordination Center meeting was held in Devils Lake, April 17, 1997. Following is a summary of information reported during that meeting.

## **N.D. Department of Transportation (DOT)**

Plans to elevate N.D. Highway 57 and N.D. Highway 20 are under review by DOT based on revised forecasts that call for the lake to crest 3 ½ feet over original predictions. DOT officials have placed on hold awarding bids for placement of concrete barriers and rip-rap on the two highways.

A Lakota contractor began work April 28 on the grade raise of N.D. Highway 1 at Stump Lake, which will be elevated five feet to 1,415 feet. The contractor has been given 35 days to complete work on the highway.

Construction has resumed on the Six Mile Bay bridge. Forming of the deck slab is now being done, with placement of concrete expected soon.

Increasingly serious water problems are being experienced at four sloughs along N.D. Highway 200 between Hurdsfield and Chasely. The highway has been closed at Hurdsfield until further notice.

## **N.D. Water Commission (SWC)**

The State Water Commission (SWC) has received 90 new Available Storage Acreage Program (ASAP) applications since January 1, 1997. To date, agreements have been reached on fifty-five new sites that will be capable of holding approximately 3,500 AF of water this spring. This brings the total storage obtained through ASAP to 12,500 AF, when combined with the 8,000 AF of storage that was obtained last spring and the 1,000 AF that was obtained last fall. It is anticipated that an additional 2,000-3,000 AF of storage will be gained from the remaining applications that are being reviewed.

## **N. D. State Insurance Department**

The Department has not yet received any formal complaints with regard to flood insurance coverage. They have taken many consumer calls related to sewer backup/sump pump coverage and power failure coverage.

## **N.D. Game & Fish**

There has been no change of status regarding boat access at Six Mile Bay, East Bay, Tiger Bay, and Minnewaukan sites. The funding and work plans are in place for Six Mile Bay and East Bay. Spring site inspections and plans need to be developed for the Minnewaukan and Black Tiger Bay sites.

## **US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)**

Devils Lake levee raise, Stage 1:

The contractor is still shut down for the winter.

The contract is approximately 50% complete.

The contract completion date remains at September 21, 1997.

Devils Lake levee raise, Stage 2:

Apparent low bidder is Orrin B. Holen Construction.  
The contractor will begin the first part of May.  
The contract completion date is October 30, 1997.

Ramsey County Rural Utilities:

Raise three lift stations, build access roads, and provide erosion protection.  
The contractor will start next week.  
The estimated completion date is mid-May.

Spirit Lake Reservation:

They established survey contract for Spirit Lake Reservation to gather elevation data for potential protection in and around St. Michael.

### **Ramsey County Emergency Management**

As a result of the April 4 blizzard, Devils Lake and the surrounding area had widespread power outages. Radios were down, and day to day law enforcement had problems. The entire city of Devils Lake was shut down for two to three days. Welfare checks were late, there was no power for water for cattle, and the business owners took a severe hit. Fort Totten lost power and telephone service. Even cellular phones were down. Snow mobile clubs were very active in bringing groceries and providing emergency services.

### **Nelson County Emergency Management**

There are five county roads under water, eight township roads washed out, and two bridges are closed.

The fallen radio tower at Petersburg wiped out ham operators' radios. They are looking at replacement of it as this is a county-owned tower.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: No change from previous reports.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No change from previous reports.
9. OTHER INFORMATION: The next State Flood Coordination Center meeting will be held May 22, 1997 at 1:30 p.m. at the Ramsey County Courthouse basement meeting room. State Flood Coordination Center meetings are currently scheduled every month.

The N.D. Division of Emergency Management's Situation Reports are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is: "<http://www.state.nd.us/dem>".

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Douglas C. Friez, State Director